

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A load transfer plate for use in transferring loads from one lifting device to another comprising a plate having sufficient tensile strength to support a rated load, having at least three connection points spaced around its perimeter for connecting said plate to a load or a lifting device,

said connection points being apertures in said plate for the attachment of said plate to shackles, and

further comprising a shackle connected to said load transfer plate at each said connection point, said shackles being rated to carry said load.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said plate is triangular, and said apertures are located in the three corners of said plate.

5. (original) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim 4, wherein said plate has rounded corners.

6. (currently amended) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said plate is circular, and said apertures are regularly spaced around said plate.

7. (currently amended) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein said plate is tri-lobed, and said apertures are located in the three lobes of said plate.

8. (original) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim 5, wherein said plate is fabricated by cutting from a bar of material.

9. (currently amended) A load transfer plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plate is made from steel.